**Tamil Nadu**

- **Chennai Corporation** – to conduct a *Vitamin A deficiency camp* to administer the vitamin A for children in the age group of 6 months to 5 years from Aug 20 to Aug 25.

- **Tamil Nadu** – bans Mobile phones in all the colleges, following an order by the Directorate of Collegiate Education.
  - It is applicable to all government, government-aided and self-financing institutions.
  - Centre-run institutions such as IIT Madras have been excluded from this rule.

- **Aavin** – has launched the sale of its products in **Hongkong**.
  - Aavin products are already available in Malaysia and Singapore.

- **Tamil Nadu Government** – has announced that the *Fossil Museum in Ariyalur* is ready for inauguration.
✓ It will feature various fossils, rocks, minerals from the pre-cambrian period, the Paleozoic period, the Jurassic period and the Cretaceous period

➢ Tamil Nadu Government – has sought Rs 4 Crore from the Centre for setting up 2 more **Museums in Theni and Thiruvannamalai**

➢ Tamil Nadu – ranks **First** in the overall enrollment of **Suganya Samriddhi Yojana**, a flagship savings scheme of the Central Government for the Girl children

Sukanya Samriddhi Account
New Saving Scheme
for Girl Child

ACCOUNT OPENING
INVEST MONEY
MATURITY

✓ It has grossed Rs 2,940 crores in the last 3 years from 15.95 lakhs account holders
✓ This is based on the figures available upto June 2018

**STATES**

➢ Telangana – has launched the 1st of its kind, **Disaster Response Force** vehicles in its capital, Hyderabad

✓ This is mainly to deal swiftly the emergency situations in the state
At present, they are stationed at 24 locations in the capital city and will be available 24x7 to tackle any type of emergency situations.

- **Punjab Police** – have organized the *1st ever workshop to prevent Cybercrime threats on a real-time basis*

- It was organized in collaboration with National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre, New Delhi

- **Madhya Pradesh** – announced that *3 Awards* will be named after **A B Vajpayee**, former Indian PM
  - 1st Award is for the Poets
  - 2nd Award is for the outstanding contribution in the field of Journalism
  - 3rd Award is for the good work in Administration

- **Karnataka** – The official residence ‘**Raj Bhavan**’ of the Governor, Vajubhai Vala, was opened for the public viewing from Aug 16 to Aug 31
  - It was formerly known as ‘Bangalore Residency’, built by Sir Mark Cubbon, who was the commissioner of Mysuru territory of the British empire between 1840 and 1842
It has to be noted that the 19 bedrooms in the Bhavan were named after famous Indian rivers and mountains.

**NATIONAL**

- **IRDAI** – has asked the Insurance companies to cover **Mental Illness** on par with Physical illness under the Medical Insurance Policy
  - The directive by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority follows the Section 21(4) of Mental Healthcare Act, 2017 enacted by Parliament, which came into force from May 29, 2018
  - Globally, Companies cover mental illness after initial waiting period of two-three years

- **Union Home Ministry** – has issued a directive that no ATM will be refilled with cash after 9 pm in cities, 6 pm in rural areas and 4 pm in Naxal-affected areas from February 8, 2019
  - This is to reduce attacks on cash vaults and ATM frauds
  - It also said that every cash van should not carry more than Rs 5 crore per trip

- **Kerala Floods**
  - **Qatar** – has announced a financial aid of $ 5 billion (Rs 34.89 crores) to help out the affected people
  - The announcement was made by Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Amir of Qatar

**CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **11th World Hindi Conference, Mauritius**
  - **Panini Language Laboratory** – was inaugurated at Mahatma Gandhi institute in Mauritius to promote reading and writing Hindi amongst youth of Mauritius
  - Inaugurated by – Sushma Swaraj, Min of External Affairs

  - **A Cyber tower** which was set up with the Contributions from A B Vajpayee, former Indian PM, will be renamed as ‘**Atal Bihari Vajpayee tower**’ in his remembrance and honour
COMMITTEES

- Bhaskar Ramamurthi Committee

- Government – has formed a 5 member committee to suggest changes to JEE (Advanced) following less number of candidates qualifying entrance test this year
- Bhaskar Ramamurthy is the Director of IIT, Madras
- Other Members includes -
  - Abhay Karandikar (Director of IIT-Kanpur)
  - Vineet Joshi (Director General of National Testing Agency)
  - Professor Kannan Moudgalya (IIT-Bombay)

- Vishaka panel – formed by Tamil Nadu Police department – to enquire into complaints on sexual harassments at workplace and redress the grievances of such victims
- The panel will be headed by Seema Agarwal, ADGP

- Members of the Committee
  - Seema Agarwal, ADGP (Head)
  - S Arunachalam, ADGP
  - Thenmozhi, DIG
  - Saraswati, SP (Retd)
  - Ramesh, Serving Member of DGP Office
INTERNATIONAL

- **Egypt** – passes a new law to block social media accounts and penalize journalists for publishing fake news

  - The law was signed by Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Egypt

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Wheat genome** – Scientists have successfully decoded ‘Wheat Genome’ for the first time

  - The research was conducted by more than 200 scientists from 73 research institutions in 20 countries, including 18 scientists from India
  - In this research, DNA sequence of bread wheat was successfully coded
World’s Most Wear-resistant metal alloy created

- US Scientists from Sandia National Laboratories have developed a platinum-gold alloy, which is 100 times more durable than High strength Steel

- It is in the same class of Sapphire and Diamond
- It has been claimed that if a set of tires been made from this alloy, it has to go around the Earth 500 times before wearing out

DEFENCE

India – has operationalised its 1st indigenous Nuclear capable, Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) after 2 decades of development

- It was code-named, B-05 and was inducted in the Navy
- It was secretly test fired back-to-back from indigenously built nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arihant, off Visakhapatnam coast on August 11 and 12
- It is 10m in length and has a strike range of about 750 km weighing 10 tonne
- The successful mission has made India a member of the very exclusive club of six nations which is capable of firing nuclear-tipped missiles from land, air and undersea. Others being Russia, USA, France, UK and China

India – is developing a new ‘Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft’, which is the fifth-generation fighter aircraft

- It is scheduled to make its first flight in 2032
- It has two GE-414 engines
- It is designed to absorb radio waves and deflect radar waves, thereby avoiding radar cross-section
- The Indian Air Force has provided the land and provisions to DRDO for this project
HELINA – Indigenously developed, **Helicopter launched, Anti Tank Guided Missile** (ATGM) was test fired successfully at Pokhran range

- It is the Helicopter launched version of the NAG ATGM
- It is manufactured by the state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited
- It has operational range of 7-10km
- The test was conducted by DRDO and Indian Army
- It can be fired from Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter and HAL Rudra attack helicopter

DRDO – has successfully tested indigenously developed **light weight glide bomb Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)**, which was dropped from an IAF flight, near Pokhran range

- SAAW project is India’s first fully indigenous anti-airfield weapon project
- It is long-range lightweight high precision-guided anti-airfield weapon
- It has an operational range upto 100 km
DEFENCE EXERCISES

- **Exercise Maitree 2018** – A Joint Military exercise undertaken by **Indian and Royal Thai Army** concludes

  ✓ The exercise was carried for a period of 2 weeks

- **Pitch Black 2018** – A biennial multinational **Air exercise** concludes in Australia
  ✓ It was hosted by **Royal Australian Air Force** from 24 July to 18 Aug, 2018

  ✓ It saw participation of 16 nations and more than 140 aircraft
  ✓ India has participated in the exercise, for the first time, with 145 air warriors including IAF Commandos team, Garuds, four Su-30 MKI, one C-130 and one C-17
  ✓ The 1st Pitch Black exercise took place in 1981
The Economic Times

ECONOMY

- Walmart – announces the completion of acquisition of 77% stake in Flipkart for a deal of $16 billion.

Other Aspects
- Flipkart’s CEO Kalyan Krishnamurthy will continue to run the company.
- Co-founder Binny Bansal will continue in his present position.
- Walmart will appoint five members to the eight-member board of Flipkart.
- Softbank has already exited Flipkart.
- Former CEO and co-founder, Sachin Bansal resigned already.
- The deal was announced in May 2018.

APPOINTMENTS

- New Ambassadors Appointment
  - Partha Satpathy - has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to Ukraine.
  - Rahul Chhabra - has been appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Kenya.
AWARDS

- General Dalbir Singh Suhag, Retired chief of the Army staff, Indian Army – Conferred with United States ‘Legion of Merit’ (Degree of Commander) Award 2018 in Pentagon, Washington DC

- The award was given to Gen Dalbir for his following contributions
- To the Indian Army during the period, August 2014 to April 2016, as Chief of Army Staff
- To expand the India-US Army to bilateral engagements
- For humanitarian assistance during Nepal’s earthquake in 2015
- Gen Dalbir retired on December 31, 2016.
- This is the 2nd time that an Indian military officer has been awarded this award. Earlier, General Rajendrasinghji Jadeja was awarded this in 1946
- The Legion of Merit Award
- It is conferred in 4 different categories - Degree of Chief Commander, Degree of Commander, Degree of Officer and Degree of Legionnaire.
SPORTS

- **18th Asian Games 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia**
  - Bajrang Punia, Wrestler (24 years, Haryana) – wins the 1st Gold medal for India
  - He defeated Japan’s Takatani Daichi in the men’s freestyle 65 kg event

- Bajrang had earlier won the Silver medal in the 2014 Asian Games at Incheon in Mens freestyle 61 kg category
- He had won 3 International Golds consecutively in Commonwealth Games (Gold Coast), Tbilisi Grand Prix (Georgia) and Yasar Dogu International (Istanbul)
- He has become the only third Indian, after Yogeshwar Dutt and Rajinder Singh, to win two Major gold medals in a year (CWG and Asiad)
- With this medal, he has received the 140th Gold medal for India, starting from the inception year of 1951
- He has dedicated his win to the former PM, Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- **Deepak Kumar, Shooting** – won the 1st Silver Medal for India in the Mens 10m Air rifle event

- **Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar**, Shooters – won the 1st Medal for India by claiming Bronze in mixed team rifle shooting event
- **Rishabh Pant** (25 years, Delhi) – becomes the 4th Indian wicket keeper to take 5 catches on his debut test at Trent Bridge, England

- He also became the first Indian and Asian wicket-keeper and the 5th wicket-keeper in Test history to take five catches in an innings on Test debut

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catches By</th>
<th>Vs.</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Wally Grout (Aus)</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>1957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Brian Taber (Aus)</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 John Maclean (Aus)</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>1978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Chris Read (Eng)</td>
<td>NZ</td>
<td>1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Rishabh Pant (Ind)</td>
<td>Eng</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- He has also joined the elite club of Naren Tamhane (vs Pakistan in 1955), Kiran More (vs England in 1986) and Naman Ojha (vs Sri Lanka in 2015), all of whom took five catches on their Test debuts

- Earlier, he became the first Indian batsman and 12th overall, to open his account in Test cricket with a six.
INTERNATIONAL DAYS

World Photography Day – August 19

✓ Objective - to inspire photographers across the planet to share their work and to celebrate and inspire the art of Photography
✓ Background
✓ The origin of ‘Photo’ started with the invention of Daguerreotype, a photographic process developed by Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicphore Niepce in 1837
✓ On January 9, 1839, the French Academy of Sciences announced the Daguerreotype process
✓ On August 19, 1839, the French government purchased the patent and announced the invention as a gift “free to the world”
✓ The first durable colour photograph was taken by Thomas Sutton in 1861
✓ The first digital photograph was taken in 1957 and 20 years later, Kodak invented the World’s first digital camera
✓ 1st World Photography day – Aug 19, 2010
Sadbhavana Diwas (Harmony Day) - August 20

- The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi, Former Prime Minister of India
- On this day, Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award is presented to commemorate the contribution made by Rajiv Gandhi for promoting the communal harmony, peace and national integration
- This year, Gopalkrishna Gandhi was conferred with 24th Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Award. He was a retired IAS officer and 22nd Governor of West Bengal, served from 2004 to 2009
- The award was instituted by All India Congress Committee of the Indian National Congress Party (INC) in 1992
- It carries a citation and a cash award of Rs. Ten lakhs

RANKINGS

All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17 of NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development)
- Reference Period – 2015-16
- Released by - Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, in New Delhi

- Only 23% of Rural Income comes from Farming/Agriculture
- Even in agricultural households, Only 43% of their average income comes from cultivation of crops and rearing of animals
- The survey estimates that 21.17 crores of Rural households exist in India, out of which 10.07 crores (48%) are Agricultural.
- The average net monthly income of Indian rural households after deducting expenses incurred was Rs 8,059
### AVERAGE LOAN PER HOUSEHOLD ROSE 122%

Source-wise average monthly household income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Agriculture household</th>
<th>Non-agri household</th>
<th>All households</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>₹</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>₹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivation</td>
<td>3,140</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock rearing</td>
<td>711</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other enterprises</td>
<td>489</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage labour</td>
<td>3,025</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>3,940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt/pvt service</td>
<td>1,444</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>2,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,931</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>7,269</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nabard — All India Financial Inclusion Survey 2016-17

### HOW RURAL HOUSEHOLDS EARN

Just 19% of the monthly income comes from cultivation, while wage labour generates over 40% of the average income of ₹8,059

An agriculture household is better-off earning ₹8,931 a month, compared to ₹7,269 for non-farm households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount (₹)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cultivation</td>
<td>1,494</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Rearing</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Enterprises</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage Labour</td>
<td>3,504</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Govt/Pvt Service</td>
<td>1,906</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State-wise income (₹)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Income (₹)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Punjab</td>
<td>16,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerala</td>
<td>16,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haryana</td>
<td>12,072</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andhra</td>
<td>5,842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>5,854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UP</td>
<td>6,257</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial Inclusion report card

Annual income for rural households: ₹96,708

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Households that save</th>
<th>Households that Invest</th>
<th>Average investment: ₹62,734</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average savings: ₹9,104</td>
<td>One in ten</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One in two</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Indebtedness of households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average outstanding debt: ₹91,407</th>
<th>One in two</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Insurance coverage of households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One in four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Pension cover of households

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>One in five</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Source: Nabard

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Mapping farm debt

Among other things, the NABARD survey measured incidence of indebtedness (IOI), the proportion of households reporting outstanding debt.

- Average amount of outstanding debt (AOD) for indebted agricultural households is ₹1,04,602.
- Outstanding debt for indebted non-agricultural households is ₹76,731.
- Overall extent of indebtedness taking all households combined is ₹91,407.
- 43.5% agricultural households reported to have borrowed any money from some source or the other.
- 60.4% of agricultural households borrowed from institutional sources alone.
- 30.3% borrowed from only informal sources and 9.2% of agricultural households borrowed from both sources.
- 56.7% of non-agricultural households and 58.6% of all households borrowed from institutional sources.

Source: NABARD, Survey Reference Year: 2015-16
Other Notable conclusions from the Survey

- More than 88% of rural households have bank accounts, with 24% of them using ATM Services at least once in every 3 months.
- The annual income of farmers increased 37.4% to Rs 1,07,172 between 2012-13 and 2015-16.
- The average monthly income of India’s rural households was Rs 8,059 in 2015-16 and Rs 6,646 in 2012-13.

National Resilience Index – prepared by Home Ministry

- It was based on the Performance of States/UTs on Disaster Risk Reduction measures adopted (out of 50 point scale)
- Budget Allocations for Disaster Risk prevention
  - 1st – Tamil Nadu (Score of 23.5)
  - 2nd – Gujarat (Score of 22.5)
  - 3rd – Bihar (Score of 20)
- Himachal Pradesh – was the only state to carry out comprehensive risk assessment
- Disaster prevention and Response
  - Maharashtra (Score of 27) – was appreciated for its efforts

OBITUARY

Uri Avnery, Israeli Journalist and Peace activist (94 years)

- Avnery was the first prominent Israeli to call for the establishment of a Palestinian state.
- He was famous for crossing the lines during the Siege of Beirut to meet Yassir Arafat on 3 July 1982, the first time the Palestinian leader ever met with an Israeli.
- He was an Israeli writer and founder of the Gush Shalom peace movement.
- Avnery sat for two terms in the Knesset, the Parliament of Israel, from 1965 to 1974 and from 1979 to 1981.
REMEMBERING FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA Mr. RAJIV GANDHI ON HIS 74th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY
(August 20, 1944 – MAY 21, 1991)

- **Youngest** Prime Minister of India
- Period in Office – October 31, 1984 – December 2, 1989
- Conferred Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1991
- **52nd** Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985 – **Anti Defection Law** – Added Tenth Schedule to the Constitution
- National Policy on Education, 1986
- Six Technology Missions established – guided by Sam Pitroda
- Indian Peace Keeping Force sent to Sri Lanka in 1987
- Assassinated in Sriperumbudur on May 21, 1991

Rajiv Gandhi

August 20, 1944 – May 21, 1991
EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION

✦ Born in Bombay on August 20, 1944
✦ Parents – Feroz Gandhi and Indira Gandhi (Former PM)
✦ Mr. Rajiv had his early education at Shiv Niketan school and was later admitted to the Welham Boys' School and Doon School in 1954
✦ From 1962 – 1965, he studied engineering at Trinity College, Cambridge and in 1966, he began a course in mechanical engineering at Imperial College London, but did not complete it.
✦ He became a member of the Flying Club in Delhi, where he was trained as a pilot.
✦ In 1970, he was employed as a pilot by Air India

ENTRY INTO POLITICS

✦ Rajiv entered politics on February 16, 1981 after the untimely death of his brother Mr. Sanjay Gandhi
✦ He became Lok Sabha MP from Amethi constituency election by defeating Sharad Yadav
✦ In December 1981, he was put in charge of the Indian Youth Congress

PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

✦ Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984
✦ Rajiv Gandhi was in West Bengal when his mother, the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated
✦ Sardar Buta Singh and the then President of India Mr. Giani Zail Singh pressed Rajiv Gandhi to take over as the Prime Minister of India within hours of Indira Gandhi’s murder
After he became the Prime Minister, Rajiv asked the then President of India Giani Jail Singh to dissolve Parliament and hold fresh elections, as the Lok Sabha had completed its five-year term.

After fresh elections, Rajiv Gandhi took oath as the Prime Minister of India on December 31, 1984, thus becoming the youngest Prime Minister of India at the age of 40.

RAJIV GANDHI’S REGIME

- **52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985** – Anti Defection Law was passed by the Parliament which added Tenth Schedule to the Constitution.
- **61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988** - lowered the voting age of elections to Lok Sabha and to Legislative Assemblies of all States from 21 years to 18 years.
- **64th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 1989** – democratic decentralisation was prepared and introduced in Lok Sabha but got defeated in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Bhopal Gas Tragedy** took place on December 2 – 3, 1984 at the Union Carbide chemical gas plant in Madhya Pradesh.
- In 1986, Parliament passed The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, which nullified the Supreme Court's judgment in the Shah Bano case.
- **July 24, 1985 – Rajiv – Longowal Accord** was signed to find an amicable solution to the Punjab problem following Operation Blue Star and assassination of Indira Gandhi.
- **Rajiv’s Perestroika** – He formulated a 4 fold strategy of new economic policy to prepare India to enter into the 21st century with confidence.
- **Six Technology Missions** were established by him under the guidance of Mr. Sam Pitroda which included Literacy Mission, Telephone Mission, Drinking Water Mission etc.
• Computerisation – Rajiv Gandhi inaugurated the information and communication revolution in India

• **New Education Policy, 1986** - gave more emphasis on human development

• Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was established by the act of Parliament on **September 1985**

• **Rajiv – Laldenga Accord** was signed in **1986** granting full statehood to Mizoram

• **Assam Accord** was signed in **August 1985** with All Assam Students Union as it removed the bitterness generated in Assam

**FOREIGN POLICY**

• Rajiv played a key role in convening the **NAM Summit in New Delhi on January 28, 1985**

• A 10 Point Declaration on behalf of Indo – Soviet people was signed between Rajiv and Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev in November 1986

• Indo – Sri Lanka Pact was signed between Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Jayawardene on **July 29, 1987**, thereby **Indian Peace Keeping Force** was sent to Sri Lanka

• Rajiv Gandhi attended the **4th SAARC Summit** held at Islamabad in December 1989

**UNTIMELY DEATH**

• Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated while campaigning for the Sriperumbudur Lok Sabha Congress candidate on **May 21, 1991**

• He was cremated at **Veer Bhumi**, on the banks of the river Yamuna in New Delhi
PERSONAL LIFE

✦ Wife – Mrs.Sonia Gandhi (married in 1968)
✦ Son – Mr.Rahul Gandhi, President of Congress Party
✦ Daughter – Mrs.Priyanka Vadra
✦ Since his death, May 21 has been declared **Anti-Terrorism Day** in India

AWARD AND REMEMBERANCE

✦ He was conferred **Bharat Ratna** posthumously in **1991**
✦ Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), was established in Sriperumbudur in **1993**
✦ **Rs. 5 stamp** featuring Rajiv Gandhi was introduced by the Department of Posts in December 2008 but was discontinued from July 2015 onwards

KEY FACTS

✦ **As person – 7th Prime Minister of India**
  Jawaharlal Nehru, Gulzari Lal Nanda, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Morarji Desai and Charan Singh
✦ **9th Prime Minister of India**
  Considering Acting Prime Minister of India Mr.Gulzari Lal Nanda who held the office twice (1964 and 1966)
  Considering Mrs.Indira Gandhi who held the office twice on different occasions (1966 – 1977 and 1980 - 1984)
✦ **7th Prime Minister of India**
  Without considering Acting Prime Minister of India Mr.Gulzari Lal Nanda
Raja Ram Mohan Roy, along with Dwarkanath Tagore founded the Brahmo Samaj, an important socio-religious reform movement in Bengal on August 20, 1828 in response to the prevailing Brahmanism at the time, especially Kulin Brahmanism.

First session of Brahmo Samaj was held in Kolkata.

Brahmo Samaj was essentially a monotheistic reform movement in the Hindu religion.

Today, Brahmo Samaj is practiced as Adi Dharma after its decline in Bengal and after the departure of the Tattwabodhini Sabha from its hierarchy in 1859.

In 1860, Hemendranath Tagore published the Brahmo Anustan (code of practice) which formally separated Brahmoism from Hinduism.

Brahmo Samaj is credited with being one of the most important reform movements in India which led to the foundation of modern India.
Brahmo Samaj saw the beginning of the Bengal Renaissance in the 19th century which eventually laid the groundwork for the entire religious, social and educational advance in the Hindu Community.

Trust Deed of the Brahmo Samaj was made in 1830, recognising its beginning.

ABOUT BRAHMO SAMAJ

- It was publicly inaugurated in **January 1830** by the sanctification of the first house of prayer, known as the Adi Brahmo Samaj.
- It gave birth to **Brahmoism**, which is regarded as a sect of Hinduism.
- Brahmo Samaj is not recognised as a separate religion in India, despite its non-syncretic foundation.
- Brahmo Samaj was a reflection of the Bengal Renaissance and took active participation in social emancipation, which included:
  - Abolition of sati
  - Caste system
  - Child marriage
  - Dowry
  - Betterment of the status of women in society
- Brahmosim as a tool to tackle the prevalent dowry system was addressed in noted Bengali writer Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay’s famous 1914 novella, Parineeta.
- Due to certain differences in opinions of members, the Brahmo Samaj was split into different groups, but continued their work in social reform.
- The core of the Brahmo Samaj was to understand that all human beings were related at a human level and hence no discrimination should be practiced, be at the level of caste, religion or gender.
- Brahmo Samaj propagated the oneness of God, brotherhood, morality and charity and was against idol worship, sati, child marriage and other meaningless rituals.
It was through the Brahmo Samaj that many social evils prevalent at that time were done away with, such as; polygamy, untouchability, infanticide, purdah system and the discrimination against women.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy and the Brahmo Samaj brought a wave of change in 19th Century in India and made way for social emancipation, which remains an important milestone in the history of the country till this day.

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**TITBITS of AUGUST 20**

- **1897**: Ronals Ross discovered malaria parasites in anopheles mosquito while working in Presidency General Hospital, now SSKM Hospital in Kolkata.
- **1917**: British Parliament declared the policy of gradual realisation of responsible government of India.
- **1921**: Moplah uprising started in Malabar region in Kerala.
- **1944**: Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was born.
- **1979**: Prime Minister Charan Singh resigned only 23 days after assumption of office of Prime Minister.